Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00925 081558Z

53
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 113051
R 081000Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9967
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0925

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: WESTERN CONTACT WITH DISSIDENTS
REF: PRAGUE 3027, DECEMBER 1, 1975

1. DURING RECENT LUNCHEON AT CHARGE'S FOR VISITING EAST BERLIN DCM BRANDON GROVE, FRG AMBASSADOR RITZEL BROUGHT UP INTERESTING SUBJECT OF WESTERN CONTACT WITH CZECHO-SLOVAK DISSIDENTS.

2. TO CHARGE'S COMMENT THAT IN HIS OPINION FRG AND FRENCH EMBASSIES DID BEST JOB OF MAINTAINING CONTACTS AND PROVIDING SOME SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENTS, RITZEL COMMENTED THAT HE GOT SOME PRODDING ON THIS FROM BONN. HE NOTED THAT WILLY BRANDT, FOR WHOM HE WORKED AS CHEF DE CABINET, HAD TOLD FRG DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT KITZEL SHOULD BE DOING MORE WITH THE DISSIDENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PASSED THIS WORD TO RITZEL, WHO BROUGHT IT UP IN CONVERSATION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PRAGUE SO AS TO INDICATE HE WAS BEING PUSHED IN THIS AREA. CONSEQUENTLY, RITZEL HAD NEVER BEEN CRITICIZED BY CZECHS FOR HIS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF DISSIDENTS (WHICH INCLUDED CEREMONY AT RITZEL'S RESIDENCE IN NOVEMBER 1975, SEE REFTEL, IN WHICH RITZEL AWARDED HONORARY DEGREE FROM AACHEN UNIVERSTIY TO CZECH PHILOSOPHER JAN PATOCKA -- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00925 081558Z

A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY MANY CZECH DISSIDENTS).

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

3. BY CONTRAST, RITZEL SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR D'HARCOURT HAD GOT HIS FINGERS BURNED FOR HOLDING FUNCTIONS TO WHICH HE HAD INVITED BOTH OFFICIALS AND DISSIDENTS. ACCORDING TO RITZEL, D'HARCOURT WAS LECTURED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL, WHO WARNED ABOUT DANGERS OF ASSOCIATION WITH DISSIDENTS.

4. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE RIGHT WAYS AND WRONG WAYS OF BEING IN TOUCH WITH DISSIDENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL BE WATCHING WITH INTEREST TO SEE WHETHER AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF IMPRISONED HISTORIAN JAN TESAR (SEE PRAGUE 0852) WILL PRO-DUCE ANY POSITIVE EFFECT.

5. BOTH GERMAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS SHOULD BE PROTECTED.
FRISBIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE00925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760133-0525
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760483/aaaacsnb.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 PRAGUE 3027
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN CONTACT WITH DISSIDENTS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, US, FR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006